

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 13 was objected to for lack of clarity by omitting a comma between "command" and "permitting." Accordingly, Claim 13 has been amended to overcome this informality. As such, withdrawal of this objection is earnestly solicited.

Claim 13 was further objected to because the object of the method was allegedly unclear. As such, Claim 13 has been amended and now recites a method of regulating a host computer's access to a virtual microcontroller ... by using a gatekeeper function to assure that emulator operations are not disrupted, as claimed. As such, it is now clear that the method steps recited in independent Claim 13 are directed to the gatekeeper. As such, withdrawal of this objection is earnestly solicited.

Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating this allowable subject matter.

Dependent Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Newly amended independent Claims 1, 13 and 21 now recite the limitations of the allowable subject matter in Claim 2. As such, independent Claims 1, 13 and 21 are now patentable because they recite limitations of the allowable subject matter in

Claim 2. Dependent Claims 3-12 and 14-20 are patentable by virtue of their dependency. As such, Claims 1 and 3-21 are now in condition for allowance and their allowance is earnestly solicited.

For the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 3-21 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1 and 3-21 is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,
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